

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (currently amended). A device for placing a first and a second vessel in liquid communication, the device comprising:

a hollow double-ended needle having first and second needle ends;

a support for the needle; and

a housing for the needle and the support, the housing comprising a wall extending about a longitudinal axis thereof and first open end;

wherein the housing surrounds the support and the needle before, during and after use of the device so as to shield a user from injury by the needle ends, and ~~an~~ axially ~~slidable~~

a first bung is arranged in open between the first open end of the housing to maintain the first needle end in a sterile environment and the support so as to be axially slideable within the housing.

2 (currently amended). A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the housing is a cylinder having first and second opposite open ends.

3 (currently amended). A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a second axially ~~slidable~~ slideable bung is arranged in the second ~~an opposite~~ open end of the housing.

4 (original). A device as claimed in claim 3, wherein beads are provided on the interior wall of the housing to locate the bungs and to vent air when the bungs are slid axially.

5 (original). A device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the needle support comprises a web extending substantially perpendicular to the walls of the housing to form upper and lower needle chambers in the housing.

6 (original). A device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the web is formed with apertures which communicate the upper and lower needle chambers.

7 (original). A device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the needle support comprises a web extending substantially perpendicular to the walls of the housing to form upper and lower needle chambers in the housing.

8 (original). A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the web is formed with apertures which communicate the upper and lower needle chambers.

9 (original). A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein beads are provided on the interior wall of the housing to locate the bung and to vent air when the bung is slid axially.

10 (original). A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the needle support comprises a web extending substantially perpendicular to the walls of the housing to form upper and lower needle chambers in the housing.

11 (original). A device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the web is formed with apertures which communicate the upper and lower needle chambers.

12 (original). A device for placing a first and second vessel in liquid communication, the device comprising:

a hollow double-ended needle; and

a needle hub surrounding and supporting the needle, the needle hub comprising a protruding portion and a base portion, connected one to the other by a frangible portion,

wherein the protruding portion is capable of collapsing within the base portion when force is applied to break the frangible portion, thereby causing an end of the needle to protrude beyond the end of the needle hub, to penetrate one of the first and second vessels.